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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
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U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,  
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**Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products**  
**October 2002**

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary October steel imports were **\$1.1 billion (2.7 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and a decrease of 0.2 million metric tons from the preliminary September totals of \$1.1 billion (2.9 million metric tons).

The September to October change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage reflected a decrease primarily in wire rods. An increase occurred primarily in blooms, billets and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases with Turkey and China. Increases occurred primarily with Brazil and Russia.

The year to date final statistics through September of 2002 showed steel imports of 21.8 million metric tons, an increase of 1.7 million metric tons from the 20.1 million metric tons through September of 2001. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs and hot rolled sheets. The largest decreases occurred in cold rolled sheets and oil country goods. The largest country increases were with Canada, Brazil, and Turkey. The largest decreases occurred with Korea, Japan, and South Africa.

**Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is December 24, 2002*